

Sub
Cl

1. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus accessing a first storage medium storing contents encrypted with a predetermined key, a first media ID identifying the first storage medium, and a first encryption secure information generated by encrypting the key and a first use information, representing a right to use the contents, together with one another or individually, with the first media ID, and accessing a second storage medium storing a second media ID identifying the second storage medium, wherein the right of using the contents stored in said first storage medium is devolved from said first storage medium to said second storage medium, said license devolution apparatus comprising:

decoding means for decoding the first encryption secure information stored in said first storage medium using the first media ID to obtain the key and the first use information; and

encryption means for encrypting with the second media ID the key and a second use information, representing a second right to use the contents that is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium, together with one another or individually, with the second media ID, to generate a second encryption secure information for storage in said second storage medium.

B1
Cont
DI
Cont'd

2. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encryption means encrypts with the first media ID a third use information, obtained through subtracting the second use information from the first use information, or encrypts with the first media ID both the key and a third right of using, to generate a third encryption secure information and stores the third encryption secure information in the first storage medium.

Subpt

3. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the entire rights of using the contents, to which the first storage medium is entitled, are devolved to the second storage medium, the first encryption secure information stored in the first storage medium is destroyed.

Sub 1 4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein before devolution of the right to use contents, the first storage medium stores contents whose right to use is intended to be devolved as encrypted contents, and

wherein said license devolution apparatus further comprises contents transfer means for reading the encrypted contents from the first storage medium, and storing in the second storage medium the read encrypted contents.

5. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first use information and the second use information represent the presence of the right to use, and the third use information represents the absence of the right to use.

Sub 02
B1 Cont 6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first use information represents a first available number of times or available time, the second use information represents a second available number of times or available time which is less than the first available number of times or available time, and the third use information represents a third available number of times or available time which is obtained through subtracting the second available number of times or available time from the first available number of times or available time.

Sub 1 7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first drive and a second drive driving the first storage medium and the second storage medium, respectively, said first drive and said second drive having a first firmware and second firmware accessing the first storage medium and the second storage medium, respectively,

wherein said decoding means and said encryption means are arranged in a firmware including said first firmware and said second firmware in form of a composite unit; and